

REMARKS

Claims 7-16 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 3 and 5 have been amended. New claim 17 has been added. Claims 1-6 and 17 are pending. Reexamination and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

First, claims 7-16 have been canceled without prejudice, so the rejections pertaining to these claims are rendered moot.

Claims 1-2 and 17

Independent claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 5,832,244 to Jolley et al. ("Jolley"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has not been amended. Original claim 1 recites, among other limitations, two separate snoop circuits 26, 28, with each snoop circuit coupled to a separate decoder circuit. Each snoop circuit 26, 28 functions to detect only one type of bus. In contrast, Jolley only discloses one bus detection circuit (e.g., 22 in FIG. 1 or 46 in FIG. 2) which is used to detect different types of buses. Thus, claim 1 (and claims 2 and 17 depending therefrom) are submitted to be allowable over Jolley.

In addition, new claim 17 recites that the first and second bus snoop circuits generate the first and second bus detect signals, respectively, based on a series of I/O writes. See page 4, lines 13-24. In contrast, Jolley does not teach or suggest the use of I/O writes to detect the type of bus. Jolley compares the signal levels on the bus to a reference potential. See the abstract of Jolley. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 17 defines additional patentable subject matter.

Claims 3-4

Independent claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jolley in view of USP 5,671,355 to Collins ("Collins"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 has been amended to recite that the micro-controller 134 generates a bus select signal selected by the micro-controller without receiving bus data from the bus. See FIG. 2 and page 5, lines 31-34 of the present application. The Examiner acknowledges that Jolley does not teach the use of a micro-controller to select the type of bus, but then cites Collins as disclosing a micro-controller. However, the bus controller 46 in Collins compares the signals at the bus to determine the identity of the bus. See column 7, lines 44-47. Thus, the bus controller 46 in Collins does not generate a bus select signal without receiving bus data from the bus. For these reasons, claim 3 (and claim 4 depending therefrom) are submitted to be allowable over Jolley and Collins.

Claims 5-6

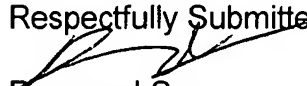
Independent claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jolley in view of Collins. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 has been amended to correct an inadvertent clerical error by changing the word "micro-controller" to "single pin". Indeed, line 3 of claim 5 recites the "pin", and there is no antecedent basis for the "micro-controller" in line 9 of claim 5. The word "micro-controller" should have been "pin", and this amendment is being made to correct this inadvertent error. As a result, this amendment is not a narrowing amendment, and is not being made to distinguish the prior art.

Claim 5 recites a single pin 236 that generates a bus select signal that selects a bus type to be decoded. See FIG. 3 of the present application. In contrast, neither Jolley nor Collins teach or remotely suggest the use of a single pin to select the bus type to be decoded. For example, column 15, lines 4-22 of Jolley describe the detection of the varying states of four separate pins 14, 16, 19 and 25 to determine the type of bus. For these reasons, claim 5 (and claim 6 depending therefrom) are submitted to be allowable over Jolley and Collins.

Thus, all pending claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned if there are informalities that can be resolved in a phone conversation, or if the Examiner has any ideas or suggestions for further advancing the prosecution of this case.

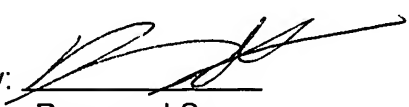
Respectfully Submitted,


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I hereby certify that this paper and its enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Date: December 24, 2003

By: 
Raymond Sun